

13. (NEW) A terminal comprising:

a reading device which reads a period, stored on a content medium, indicating a period of time during which content stored on the content medium can be served;

a clock for indicating a present time;

a comparator which determines if the present time falls within the period;

and

a server which serves the content on the content medium when the comparator determines that the present time falls within the period.

14. (NEW) A sales system comprising:

a content medium storing a locked content and a period for the locked content;

a center which provides a key to unlock the locked content when a present time falls within the period;

a terminal which reads the content medium and, when the present time falls within the period, requests the key from the center and, when the key is received, unlocks the locked content and provides a user use of the content.

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, the claims have been amended to improve clarity and to correct the defects noted therein at item 1, spanning pages 2-3, of the outstanding Office Action. Additionally, new claims 10-14 have been added. No new matter is presented in the foregoing amendment, approval and entry of same is respectfully requested.

Applicants have amended claims 1-9 to overcome the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants respectfully submit that the clarifying claim amendments are self-explanatory and therefore request the Examiner withdraw his rejection to claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §112.

Claims 10-14 have been added so as to present additional claims having varying scope and language, such as software claims (claim 12) and non-means plus function claims (claims 13 and 14). Applicants respectfully submit that these claims distinctly point out what the inventors consider to be their invention. Approval and entry of these claims is respectfully requested.

In accordance with the foregoing it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art, taken in any proper combination. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining informalities to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such informalities.



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If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this Amendment, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.9(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231

on January 20, to 98

STAAS & HALSEY

By: 

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